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Proposed claim amendments:

1. (currently amended)

A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information database comprising:

A. determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for a set of computers, in which each node is a group level and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance data;

B. specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a selected low values,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value, the low value and values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the low value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value, or

wherein said ranges are inclusive and only include values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

C. further specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from [[a plurality]]the set of computers;

E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the

table,

and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group;

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group

that is named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low

values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned;

and

F. manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein one or more table records includes secondary grouping values set to NULL.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the respective values associated with the primary grouping criteria are ranges and the step of determining if the extracted data correspond to the respective values further includes determining if the corresponding

extracted data falls below a high limit and above a low limit of the primary grouping ranges.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the values associated with the secondary grouping criteria are ranges and the step of determining if the extracted data correspond to the values further includes determining if the corresponding extracted data of interest falls below a high limit and above a low limit of the within one of the secondary grouping ranges.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein querying further comprises determining if the extracted data corresponds to the primary grouping criteria and a secondary low value of NULL or the empty string.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the primary and secondary grouping criteria correspond to user-specified values of the selected computer profile data.

7. (Currently Amended)

~~A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information database comprising:~~

~~A. determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for the computers, in which each node is a group level, and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria that correspond to ranges of values of selected computer~~

profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration and performance data;

B. specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, fields for the ranges of values of the selected computer profile data that are the primary grouping criteria, wherein said ranges are inclusive and include a selected high value, a selected low value, and values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

C. further including, in the table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary grouping criteria are assigned;

D. receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data for that particular computer;

E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performing the following:

extracting the selected profile data that is utilized in the primary grouping; querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted data fall within the ranges of values that are included in the primary grouping fields in any of the table records; and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group; if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record, or

if the query results in multiple table records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned; and

F. manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that summarize the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

A system of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information database comprising:

a processor and memory;

the memory having computer instructions configured to:

A. determine, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for a set of computers, in which each node is a group level and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance data;

B. specify in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary grouping criteria, and

including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a selected low values,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value, the low value and values there between wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the low value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value, or

wherein said ranges are inclusive and only include values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

C. further specify, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. receive, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from the set of computers;

E. have a step where for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table,

and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,
if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned;
and

F. a step to manipulate the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first predetermined position in the order of the records is the first record found and the second predetermined position in the order of records is the last record found.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein grouping further comprises re-grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with different user-specified primary and secondary grouping criteria by altering the ranges.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein grouping further comprises grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria

that correspond to computer profile data that represents selected physical locations of users.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein grouping comprises re-grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to computer profile data that represents selected structures within the underlying organization of users.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein grouping comprises re-grouping the plurality of computers in groups in accordance with primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to other selected structures within the underlying organization of a company.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium embodying a profile group managing server having stored thereon and running profile group managing software for executing a method of managing a database by executing instructions for performing the steps comprising:

A. collecting, at a profile group managing server, profile data for a given computer in a set of computers, into the database;

B. grouping the computers into a specified tree structure of groups in the database in which each node of the tree is a group level, and a top level is a root, based on primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to respective values of selected computer profile data with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a selected low values, wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value, the low value and values there between wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

C. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings;

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table; and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record;

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned; and maintains the group information in the database;

D. manipulating the data in the database to produce reports that summarize the attributes of the computers in a given group level and the levels below on the tree; and

E. providing the reports to a user.

A computer-readable storage medium embodying a profile group managing server having stored thereon and running profile group managing software for executing a method of managing a database by executing instructions by a processor for performing the steps comprising:

A. determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for a set of computers, in which each node is a group level and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or

more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance data;

B. specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a selected low values,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value, the low value and values there between wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the low value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value, or

wherein said ranges are inclusive and only include values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

C. further specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

D. receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from the set of computers;

E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table,

and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,
if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record

that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned;
and

F. manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (currently amended) The method as defined in [[C]]claim 1 wherein said hardware component

information includes one or more of manufacturer, system BIOS, CPU, bus, memory, hard disks, local and shared, logical and physical, tape drives, video cards, sounds cards, printers, network and operating systems.

24. (currently amended) The method as defined in [[C]]claim 1 wherein said software version information about applications includes one or more of manufacturer, product name, version number and install directory and said performance data includes one ore more of network activity, CPU utilization, number of reboots, and hard drive SMART failures.

25. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein said group profile managing

server organizes the set of computers to reflect the organization of the company, and underlying physical set up, such as by using identifiers including at least one of PC Name and corporate department including one of sales, marketing, headquarters and location.

26. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 25 wherein said PC Names include three

letters followed by four digits, said three letters denoting organizational responsibilities of the computer' s user, such that said numbers together uniquely identify one or both of a particular computer and the computer's user.

27. (new) A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information database comprising:

receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in a set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from the set of computers; determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for the set of computers, in which each node is a group level and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance data;

specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a selected low values,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value, the low value and values there between wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the high value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value,

wherein said ranges are inclusive and include the low value and the values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value, or

wherein said ranges are inclusive and only include values there between, wherein said values there between include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

further specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from a plurality of computers; for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings and the secondary groupings,

querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table,

and

if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record,

if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned;

and

manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.